WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Domestic LPG connections

*101. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala had made any request for the increase of LPG domestic connection quota to the State;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the oil companies are not sanctioning second cylinder in Kerala;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total number of waiting list for LPG domestic connections in the country up to the 31st of December; 2006, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. State Government of Kerala has requested for providing sufficient quantity of LPG in the State.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that till December, 2006, there was a backlog of one to three days in the State of Kerala due to transporters strike, bandhs and violence in Mangalore. Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the State by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the ocuntry, including the State of Kerala and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have reported that they have supplied 436.8 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) of LPG in Kerala during the current year 2006-07 (April-February, 2007) against 415.9 TMT in 2005-06 (April-February, 2006) showing a growth rate of 5.03%. Out of the three OMCs, *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limtied (HPCL), only IOC is presently not releasing DBCs (second cylinder) in the State of Kerala, due to inadequate supply of cylinders by the cylinder manufacturers. Government has advised IOC

to make alternate arrangements for supply of cylinders through other suppliers on a priority basis.

(e) The release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. As on 31.12.2006, there was a waiting list of 20295 for new LPG connections with OMCs in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement

The State-wise number of waiting list for release of new LPG connections

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Waiting list as on 31.12.2006	Waiting list as on 1.2.2007
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1600	-
2.	Madhya Pradesh	1560	-
3.	Maharashtra	4455	-
4.	Karnataka	8011	-
5.	Kerala	4661	4861
6.	Lakshadweep	8	160
	TOTAL:	20295	5021

Financing of PSUs by JBIC

*103. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is financing the Public Sector Undertakings in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such undertakings/corporations etc. indicating the total amount of investment to be made therein, PSU-wise;

(c) whether any policy in this regard has been formulated by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?